

REMARKS

The abstract was objected to as not being drawn to the elected invention as claimed. The abstract has been corrected accordingly. In view of these corrections, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 (paragraph 2) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. More specifically, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected as unclear as to whether a composition or a process is claimed. Claim 1 is a product by process claim, [MPEP 2173.05(p)(I)] claiming the composition. Claim 11 is a process claim claiming the process of making the composition. The Examiner asserts that the term “simple” divalent nickel salt is not clear. The meaning of the term is clearly found in the specification at page 2 line 22 – page 3 line 2. The Examiner also asserts that it is not clear as to the structure of the d) ligands. A description of the ligands is found in the specification at page 3 line 32 – page 5 line 2, and, in particular, Formula I on page 4.

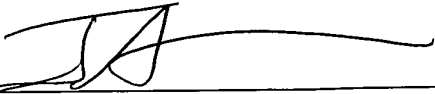
Claims 3 and 14 were rejected as being unclear as to the meaning of an “alkanoate” in comparison to an alkoxide or an alcohol solvate. As indicated in the specification at page 3, lines 19-25, a nickel alkanoate is the salt of a carboxylic acid. To clarify, an alkoxide is the conjugate base of an alcohol. An alkanoate does not reference a solvated structure, hence the term “alcohol solvate” would also not be applicable or understandable.

Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 have been rejected due to the structures being alleged as unclear. On page 4 of the specification, Formula I depicts the relevant structures.

The rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 USC § 112 has either been satisfied by Applicants’ specific citations to the specification or eliminated by explanation and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

In view of the above and clarification to the Abstract, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn and an allowance issued.

Respectfully submitted,
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